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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, PFOR

SUBJECT: US/EC PRESIDENCY DIALOGUE--JUNE 14-15 POLITICAL
DIRECTORS MEETING

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REF: A) LONDON 9151 B) LONDON 9152 C) TEL AVIV2967 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONNECTION WITH SUBJECT MEETING, EMBASSY SHOULD CONSULT WITH BRITISH PRESIDENCY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES. ANALYSIS ON CERTAIN ASIAN AGENDA ITEMS PROVIDED SEPTEL.

2. EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. UNTIL PROCESS OF FORMING NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS COMPLETED, WE TEND TO THINK THERE IS LITTLE WHICH CAN BE DONE BY US OR OTHERS TO ADVANCE CYPRUS TALKS OR OTHER EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES. WE NOW ANTICIPATE THAT GOVERNMENT FORMATION PROCESS IN TURKEY MAY TAKE AT LEAST SEVERAL WEEKS AND FINAL OUTCOME IS NOT CERTAIN, ALTHOUGH WE STILL EXPECT BULENT ECEVIT OF MODERATE LEFT REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY TO BE TURKEY'S NEXT PRIME MYNISTER. WE EXPECT TO HAVE SOME CONTACT WITH UN SYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CYPRUS DE CUELLAR AND TURKISH CYPRIOT "FOREIGN MINISTER" CHELIK WHILE BOTH ARE IN US FOR UNSC JUNE 14 UNFICYP MEETING BUT WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT MUCH CAN HAPPEN

IN NEAR FUTURE IN INTERCOMMUNAL FORUM, I.E., AT LEAST UNTIL NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS IN OFFICE.

3. CSCE. EMBASSY MAY, IF IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE, REINFORCE POINTS MADE IN STATE 112806. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE TABLE A PAPER ON TECHNICAL MODALITIES FOR THE MAIN BELGRADE MEETING AT THE OUTSET OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING, IN ORDER TO GAIN THE INITIATIVE AND TO UNDERCUT ATTEMPTS TO ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. SUCH A PAPER SHOULD BE DRAFTED IN A MANNER TO GAIN WIDE CONFIDENTIAL

ACCEPTANCE AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING. GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AT NATO ON A DRAFT PAPER FOR THE PREPARATORY MEETING. WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING DETAILS SO THAT THE PAPER CAN BE AGREED AND BE READY FOR TABLING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BELGRADE MEETING.

4. MIDDLE EAST. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE E-9 MIDDLE EAST STATEMENT (REFS B & C), CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED US TO OPPOSE ISSUANCE OF EC STATEMENT IN JANUARY ARE EVEN MORE RELEVANT TODAY, WITH INCREASED UNCERTAINTY HANGING OVER PEACE PROCESS WHILE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT BEING FORMED AND NEW FOREIGN POLICY BEING SORTED OUT. ALTHOUGH THE PROSPECT OF BEGIN AS PRIME MINISTER HAS CREATED CONSIDERABLE APPREHENSION AMONG ARABS, THEY HAVE GENERALLY ADOPTED WAIT-AND-SEE POSTURE AND HAVE AVOIDED OVERREACTING OFFICIALLY, WITH THE FOCUS BEING ON THEIR DETERMINATION TO PURSUE PEACE PROCESS.

US POLICY IS DESIGNED TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION OF PRE-

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JUDGING FOREIGN POLICY POSTURE OF A BEGIN GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE DELIBERATELY CULTIVATED POSTURE OF BUSINESS AS USUAL ON THE PEACE FRONT. SECRETARY'S RECENT MEETING WITH GROMYKO REAFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT TO WORK TOWARD EARLY RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

STATEMENT BY EC AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY ONE THAT INTRO-DUCED ANY NEW ELEMENTS INTO ITS EXISTING POSITION THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS TILTING FURTHER TOWARD ARABS,WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE. STATEMENT COULD STRENGTHEN POSITION OF HARDLINERS IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AMONG ISRAELI POLITICAL PARTIES OVER FOREIGN POLICY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME UNREALISTICALLY RAISING ARAB EXPECTATIONS AND TOUGHENING THEIR DEMANDS. IT WOULD ALSO BE INCONSISTENT WITH LOW PROFILE POSTURE WISELY ADOPTED BY ARABS THEMSELVES DURING THIS DELICATE PERIOD.

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WE GREATLY APPRECIATE EC DESIRE TO PLAY ACTIVE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST AND BELIEVE THAT JUDICIOUS APPLICATION OF EUROPEANS' CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WILL HAVE IMPORTANT AND USEFUL EFFECT AT A FUTURE STAGE IN THE PEACE PROCESS. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT THE LESS WE ALL SAY THE BETTER. VANCE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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